

~~SECRET~~

NBC BRIEFING

14 NOVEMBER 1956

KHEE PUSH FOR KOREAN UNIFICATION

- I. Last week, old Syngman Rhee jocularly told our Ambassador: "now that your elections are over, we're going to cause you some trouble". Since then, Rhee busy keeping his promise.
 - A. Spurred by Satellite unrest, Radio Seoul has appealed to North Koreans to "rise up" against Communist regime.
 - B. South Korean Government also sponsoring "liberation" demonstrations.
 - C. Rhee has written Chiang and Diem, suggesting time is ripe for attack on Communists.
 - D. At 18 Nov cabinet meeting, Rhee declared South Korea had waited "long enough" for unification, told his staff to "mobilize all resources" to reinforce combat-readiness.
- II. Very little likelihood that Rhee's propaganda could trigger revolt in North Korea.
 - A. No organized popular resistance to regime.
 - B. Few "national" Communists, who might oppose Sov domination, long since purged.
- III. Also unlikely that Rhee would order unilateral military "liberation" of North at present.
 - A. Chief of Staff, Yi, former booster of "march North," now opposes it on grounds ROK army's logistic, air weakness.
- IV. Danger is that, in course of campaign, Rhee might misinterpret developments and stumble into major incident.

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